

XXXXXXXXXXXX

20734

August 14, 1965

Mrs. Beatrice Rosenfeld
Viking Press
625 Madison Ave.,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Rosenfeld,

Among the people who have read my book, you and your husband are somewhat unusual in that you are an editor and a lawyer who probably discussed it afterwards. So, more than with most people, I am anxious to know what you both thought. If you can take the time to let me know I'd appreciate it.

Except for the things Sidney has accomplished in England, there is really nothing new with it. For a while I did have a good agent, although he let me know nothing about what he did with it. His final opinion (his first was that it was excellent) was that no American publisher would touch it. For me to agree with him would be to abandon everything I think important in our society. The Saturday Evening Post, which had excitedly talked to me about a 20,000 word summary, changed its mind for a reason beyond my comprehension, even though most of my writing experience had been with magazines when I was younger.

I have heard nothing from Sidney for three or four weeks. He should be back soon. The first publisher still has it. After giving it an editorial examination, they sent it to Sir Hartley Shawcross (no less- very encouraging!) for a legal reading. He reported the nature of his connections with the British Government would preclude his making any public statements. So it is now in the hands of another Queen's Counsellor who has promised to perform as rapidly as possible but, as of my last information, was quite preoccupied by litigation, some of which involved Trevor-Roper in a way of which I know nothing.

The copy you returned to me arrived just in time for me to give it to the representative of a prominent French publisher, who assured me there was no conflict. We had a pretty full agreement, including a time schedule. He has violated it and has failed to answer four letters. A note from a secretary leads me to fear the possibility of some sort of plagiarism, not necessarily involving the publisher. If you even hear of any scheduled or accomplished foreign publication, I'd very much like to know about it. With the number of houses in which my manuscript rested, when I consider the extensiveness of the footnoting and the accessibility of Xerox, I'm apprehensive, especially when I recall two very successful movies that were stolen from my earlier writing in the field of fact, public domain, my lawyer said.

Thanks for everything you have done. The book is now at Atheneum, where Janet Wiener said there was no adverse policy decision. They promised a three-week answer that I wish could be faster! When I get to New York again I'd like to be able to talk with you and your husband.

Sincerely,